

## What to Do with All the Old TVs Courtesy of Utah Division of Environmental Quality

As the nation switches to Digital TV in February 2009, there's a growing concern among many that millions – as many as 250 million—of old analog TVs could end up in the trash.

Recycling is the best option but unfortunately the options in Utah are limited.

The least desired option is the landfill. TVs contain toxic components such as lead, cadmium and mercury. EPA estimates that each cathode ray tube television, most of which are analog, contains 4 to 8 pounds of lead.

Consumers can ship their old television sets to the manufacturer, many of which have an 'Electronics Take Back' program or take it to one of three Utah companies that recycle it for a price: GRX Recycling in Clearfield, Stone Castle Recycling in Ogden and SFI Computer Recycling in Spring City.

There's always the chance that people with analog televisions – the old TVs that work on antennas – will purchase a converter box, but most predict that people will simply buy a new TV. The holiday shopping season could see a rush on new TVs and that could potentially mean unwanted TVs will end up in the trash.

Some manufacturers have pledged to take back old televisions for free and recycle them. Sony Inc. has established collection sites in many states, including Utah. Other states have passed producer responsibility laws requiring companies to subsidize the collection and recycling of TV sets.

The Utah Legislature has considered various bills that range from banning e-waste in landfills by 2007 to simply providing public information about the issue – all without success.

### SLVHD To Offer Free E-waste Recycling! by Dorothy Adam, HHW Program

SLVHD please to announce that we will begin accepting electronic waste through the Household Hazardous Waste program this Fall (date to be announced). HHW staff were successful in securing additional funding that will pay for collecting this waste stream.

This will only be available for Salt Lake Valley residents, but will hopefully reduce the amount of televisions that end up in the landfill!



## And if you don't like the idea...

...of filling landfills with old TV set, here are ten ways to recycle that old analog set:

1. Recycle- Televisions can contain lead, mercury, cadmium and other dangerous materials and if disposed of improperly these materials will leak into the soil. This may seem like an obvious option but many people don't even know that television recycling exists. Even if you decide to keep the TV and just remove its guts look for a proper way to recycle the insides.
2. Donate- Schools especially could use the extra TV love. Most schools have televisions in class rooms on closed circuits or use them to show movies and National Geographic specials. Old TVs will still work with DVD players and VCRs.
3. Give it to the Kids- How many times can you stand to watch Disney DVDs? Put the old set in the kids' room and let them watch their favorite DVDs and you can have a few moments of peace and quiet.
4. Make an Aquarium- You know you've always wanted to make your television into a fish tank. Now is your chance.
5. Use it as an End Table- Those with really old sets that have large wooden enclosures know exactly what this means.
6. Make Art- If people made toilets into art, who's to say that an old television set can't be made into art? Use your imagination people.
7. Build a Coffee Table- Turn your television on its back, stabilize, place a piece of glass over top and voila' you have a coffee table. Hey, you could even hook up a DVD player and have movies play or picture slide shows.
8. Build a Tesla Coil - Take extreme caution if attempting this task. As a matter of fact, forget we ever suggested building a Tesla Coil. They are dangerous and this should only be attempted by professionals.
9. Build a Video Game Machine- For those that like to combine construction and technology you can build an old arcade type console and hook up an old Nintendo. Pac-Man rules!
10. Make a Planter- Yeah, that's right, carefully gut the television and make a fun flower planter.

Admittedly, some of these suggestions are strange, silly and/or dangerous, but it goes to show with a little imagination we can still salvage and recycle a piece of electronics history that has served us well.